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MASSACHUSETTS CLASS "A" STATE RELAY CHAMPIONS

PEABODY - His cell phone was ringing all day, but Lincoln-Sudbury assistant track coach Chris Tarello wasn't bothered.

After all, head coach Mel Gonsalves - at school due to a work commitment - was entitled to as many updates as he wanted about how the Warriors' girls team was faring at the Class A Relays.

Led by wins in the pole vault and 4 x 200-meter relay, Lincoln Sudbury ended Newton North's streak of three straight titles at the Relays with a 62-point effort at Peabody. "Across the board today, the girls completely came here with a goal in mind and every individual that stepped out onto the track pulled their weight and worked toward that goal - and that was to bring home a championship today," Tarello said.

Sisters Fiona and Sophia Romeri, and Helen Wen won the pole vault on Friday with a state record height. Dana Jamison, Audrey Miller, Larina Kleynerman and Sally McInnes were the victorious 4 x 200 team, as the Warriors triumphed in their first year in Class A. "What we're trying to do is establish our own tradition right now," Tarello said.

The Warriors didn't win the 4 x 800 and 4 x mile relays, but registered points from two teams in both events - a huge boost to their chances.

Newton North was second with 56 points, as the Tigers were already at a disadvantage without a pole vault team. Still, Newton North won the 4 x 800 (Lili Brown, Emma Kornetsky, Szeman Lamb and Kat Chiong) and the 4 x mile (Haleigh Smith, Carolyn Ranti, Katie McLean and Jess Barton). The 4 x mile set a meet record of 21:43. "All of our running teams did extremely well," Newton North coach Joe Tranchita said. "We're just thrilled. We put it to them to perform. We didn't get the points in the field events, and that's really what hurt us. . . . We're working on the field."

PEABODY -- This time, there was no rain or cold air. This time, there were no competitors ducking for cover under team tents. New champions emerged in the Division 1 Mass State Relay Championships at Veterans Memorial Stadium yesterday under clear skies. The Lincoln-Sudbury girls' and Methuen boys' track teams stole the show, taking early leads and holding on.

It was a far cry from last year's damp afternoon, while the perennial powerhouse from Newton North (defending boys' champs and three-time defending girls' champs) was not the winning force it generally is.

Lincoln-Sudbury, in its first year of Division 1 competition, collected 62 points. A victory by the 4x200 team of Sally McInnes, Larina Kaleynerman, Audrey Miller, and anchor Dana Jamieson pushed the team ahead.

In a meet-record pole vaulting display, Fiona Romeri, Sophia Romeri, and Helen Wen gave the team valuable points as it moved ahead of Newton North's 56.

"What we're trying to do is establish our own tradition," said L-S assistant coach Chris Tarello, subbing for head coach Mel Gonsalves. "To do that, we have to compete and bang heads with those programs that have been doing it for all these years."